

# THE Organized FARMER

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## New Manitoba Act Trims Producer Power

Manitoba's Legislature has given final approval to the new Natural Products Marketing Act. It passed in the face of stiff opposition from members and farm and processor groups.

The new legislation governs producer marketing boards for farm, fish, and forest products. And it provides for Government Marketing Commissions to handle the sale of certain products in the Province.

The Act transfers policing powers of producer boards to the Government appointed Manitoba Marketing Board, which is to administer the regulations contained in the new legislation. Policing duties were formerly in the hands of producer boards.

Among many representations to the Manitoba Government made before the Act was given third reading, was that of the Manitoba Farmers' Union. The M.F.U. brief presented by President Herb Anderson, protested the changes in the Natural Products Marketing Act. He expressed concern about the diminishing of the powers of

producer boards, and asked that the Bill be either withdrawn or reconsidered.

The new Bill 76 was not acceptable to the M.F.U. because of the transfer of certain restrictive powers from producer boards "into the political arena."

### "Sell-Out" S.F.U. Charges

Roy Atkinson, President of the Saskatchewan Farmers' Union, has expressed sharp criticism of the Manitoba Government's new marketing legislation. He stated that in his opinion, it would now be impossible for Manitoba producers to operate an effective marketing board of any description. He termed it "The weakest and most watered down producer marketing legislation on the statutes of any province in Canada." He stated that Manitoba farmers had been sold out to the interests of corporations and packing companies.

## Sask. Market Board Vote Set For May 9

May 9 has been set by the Saskatchewan Government as the voting day on the proposed Saskatchewan Hog Producers' Marketing Board. The announcement came after the Saskatchewan Marketing Board, a government body charged with administering Provincial Marketing Legislation, recommended the holding of a plebiscite.

The Saskatchewan Marketing Board recently completed a series of public hearings, where individuals and organizations concerned presented their views on the proposed hog marketing board plan. The Saskatchewan Marketing Board decided that there was sufficient concern among producers to warrant a plebiscite to determine their wishes on the organization of a producers' hog marketing board.

### U.S. LIVESTOCK POPULATION

Total number of cattle and calves on farms in the U.S. on January 1, 1964, was estimated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture at 106.5 million head. This is a 3 per cent rise from the figure given one year earlier. It's the sixth straight year that increases have been noted.

Cattle kept for milk production dropped three per cent, but beef cattle numbers were up five per cent. Beef cows were up six per cent, while steers increased three per cent.

The number of hogs on U.S. farms amounted to 56.0 million head down five per cent from the previous year. Sheep and lambs were six per cent under last year, totalling 28.2 million. The number of stock sheep on farms was smallest on record. U. S. Department of Agriculture records date back to 1867.

Registration of eligible voters, and polling, will be done at the same time. Two hundred and fifty polling places will be open to receive producers' votes.

In line with Saskatchewan Farmers' Union recommendations is the Government's decision that a sixty per cent favorable vote of those producers casting ballots would be sufficient to proceed with the establishment of a board. The S.F.U. says it is confident that the plebiscite will show producers in favor of the Marketing Board plan.

## TOUR TO DIG FOR MARKETS

A tour by representatives of major Western Canadian Farm and Co-operative Organizations, including the FUA, is to go through Mainland China and Japan next fall.

Organizers of the tour expect a minimum of 15 people will go. Tentative date for the start of the three week trip is September 25.

Purpose of the trip, which will be at the personal expense of those going, is to see whether the potential market for Western Canadian grain can be expanded, to understand the Asian people better, and to look at prospects for increased trade in other areas as well.

Idea for the tour first came from a resolution passed at the 1962 FUA Convention. At the time, it was suggested such a tour might open up neglected markets for Canadian wheat.

# The Honor Roll Rides Again

## Page Attends Montreal Hog Improvement Talks

Richard Page, a hog producer from the Didsbury area, was the FUA representative at the Canadian Federation of Agriculture's Hog Improvement Conference at Montreal April 28-29.

This conference was a producer one, and was attended by invitation only. Delegates from many farm organizations across Canada took part. Observers were also invited.

It was a policy conference. The aim was to approve a conference policy statement which can help governments and bodies interested in hog improvement to decide which steps to take in that direction.

## Big News At Last In The Membership Rolls!

Three Districts are up over last year in total number of members. Districts 3, 5, and 13 are over the top. Congratulations.

With any luck, we will soon be able to report more districts with the same achievement. One or two are very close. Others still have between 100 and 300 members to pick up. Only one district was short more than 300 members from its 1963 total at last count.

**District 5 was one of the first over the top last year. They are still going strong.**

Next week, we will have a complete, district by district breakdown on the membership totals, up to the end of April. By then, we hope our honor roll will have several more districts added to it.

\* \* \*

While membership still comes in, it is little more than a trickle. This fact, and the reasons for it, will no doubt be coming up for discussion at the district conventions in June. Decisions made at these conventions will determine the steps to be taken in future to reach our membership goals. Membership goal for 1963-64 was set at 30,000 unit members. On April 27, the total number of units enrolled was 24,731.

# Manitoba Government To Establish Voluntary Selling Agency for Hogs

A government hog-marketing agency for hogs will be established in Manitoba within the next year, utilizing a teletype system and operating on a voluntary basis. Decision was made to go ahead with the voluntary agency despite opposition from several quarters.

**A plebiscite on whether or not a complete agency is to be set up will be taken not less than two years and not more than three years after the new Natural Products Marketing Act comes into force. The proposal to set up a voluntary agency carries out the recommendations of the Shewman commission.**

The Shewman report pointed out that Manitoba was without an openly competitive market for hogs because the majority were presently being delivered direct to packing plants, with the rest sold by private treaty. A competitive market, it stated, was necessary as a price-setting standard.

It recommended that a government hog marketing commission be set up to operate a public hog marketing and market information service. The sales agency which could be used on a voluntary basis by producers would be run by the commission.

Most of the details regarding the commission's operation have not yet been worked out, so it will be several months at least before it is set up. No decision on who will serve on the commission, or producer representation is indicated.

Commenting on the decision to try the voluntary feature in hog marketing rather than calling for a vote that could result in a compulsory board, Manitoba Minister of Agriculture, George Hutton said the Shewman commission found a broad consensus of opinion favoring "retention of as much freedom as possible" in its investigations. The government can not ignore the findings of such an intensive study of livestock marketing, costing \$25,000 and made by a capable cross section of members of the legislature, Mr. Hutton said.

In addition the minister said, the change to compulsory marketing of hogs would be a "long step" for producers to take.

A good deal of useful experience could be gained in board marketing through the operation of the hog marketing commission and

would regardless of its success, serve a useful purpose in this way. The voluntary agency would

### NOTE: Change of Date.

District 7 Convention will be held at the Vermilion School of Agriculture on Monday, June 15th, instead of June 26th.

# HOG CAMPAIGN WORTH ITS COST

Quite a few Alberta hog producers seem confident about the job a Marketing Board can do to sell pork. In fact, these hog men are willing to support financially the education campaign leading up to a producer plebiscite on such a Board.

Over a thousand dollars has so far been collected in a fund to help pay Hog Marketing Board campaign expenses. This campaign by the Alberta Hog Marketing Committee seeks to carry the case for Hog Marketing Boards to as many producers as possible. The Committee is a joint body of the FUA and AFA.

Part of the money contributed to this fund has been in response to the slogan "Give A Hog For Freedom," (\$754).

Much of the opposition to the proposed Hog Marketing Board has been based on what Board promoters have called scare tactics, designed to frighten hog producers with the prospect of losing

present a prime opportunity to evaluate and analyze the procedures of board marketing of hogs.

"By using the commission for a few years, producers can find out whether or not they want to go all the way into compulsory marketing of their product," Mr. Hutton said. At the end of that time, if the commission has not been successful in restoring an adequate level of competition into hog marketing, changes in the marketing system could be made.

When it is established, the new commission will have the authority to co-operate with other agencies or boards that might be established in other provinces "within the terms of its regulations," Mr. Hutton said.

—From  
The Manitoba Co-operator

their freedom to market the pigs they raise. Because of this, the "Give A Hog For Freedom" slogan was chosen to point out that the only way producers can be sure of keeping their freedom to market is by setting up a producer controlled Marketing Board. FUA President Paul Babey, among others, has said often that this is the main issue facing producers.

## 'Arrowwood Story'

A 140 page book containing a history of the Arrowwood District is ready to go to press. Starting with the story of the community's settlement, it documents development up to the present.

This book, created by and for the people of Arrowwood community, contains pictures of the early days showing many of the people who have lived in the district.

Anyone who wishes to order a copy of this book, may do so by writing to Mrs. Leigh Williams of Arrowwood. Price of the book is \$4.00 picked up in Arrowwood, or \$4.25 mailed. Cheques and money orders should be made out to Mrs. Williams, in trust for the Arrowwood F.W.U.A. Please order as soon as possible.

## ALBERTA HOG RAISERS: HOW BIG?

In 1961 — 12,881 farmers had 3 to 17 hogs  
In 1961 — 18,642 farmers had 17 to 62 hogs  
In 1961 — 4,786 farmers had 62 to 122 hogs  
In 1961 — 1,358 farmers had 123 hogs and over



**FARMERS' UNION  
OF ALBERTA**

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Phone 424-0375  
After 5:00 p.m.: 489-6955

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LABOUR AND CO-OPERATIVES

SIMILARITIES AND  
DIFFERENCES

(Continued from last week)

3. Another point of difference and a crucial one: co-operatives say that union business agents are often irresponsible. This is the operational level at which the two movements meet, and it is unfortunate that co-operatives are often represented by men with little or no experience in this sort of thing, and the unions by people to whom the proper understanding of co-operatives has not percolated down from the top level as repre-

sented here. Co-operatives feel that, if labour is going to give great power to business agents it must be responsible for them.

4. Another point of difference is that co-operatives accuse labour of not taking the initiative in building co-operatives — not only that, they say you do not support co-operatives where they already exist. They accuse labour leaders, with some justification, of speaking in glowing terms about co-operatives in Sweden and other countries but not giving them support at home in Canada. They say you are not using co-operative institutions for union affairs when you could easily do so.

5. And then there is labour's lack of information too. Just as co-operatives and farmers get a slanted view of labour, labour gets a slanted view of the farm situation. For example, we read a great deal these days in the press about sales of wheat to other countries of the world, and reports are written as if it were only the farmer who gained. The newspapers would have us believe that the farmer is now riding high on the hog but nothing is said about the tremendous advantage that wheat sales are for everyone from the truck-driver to

the clergyman. Moreover, labour does not realize the constant price-squeeze that is on the farmer, just to live and maintain his farm business.

6. Finally, another difference and fundamental one is that agriculture does not have the same confidence in political action that labour has. The great majority of co-operative leaders in Canada believe in political neutrality for their organization.

These are some of the things that tend to keep labour and co-operatives apart. These are some of the things that have been blocking the channels of communication between the two movements.

The similarities

But what of the similarities? If I were asked to point out where we can find similarities or the common platform on which we can work together, it is in this area: Both labour and co-operatives are reform and progressive movements — both claim that they are seeking social justice. It is here that the two movements must find common cause; it is here that they must take positive action; it is here that, instead of hacking at each other, the two should be building together for social progress.

Now, in the Canadian setting, what are the objectives of what I call the progressive viewpoint, as represented by labour and co-operatives? What is our common philosophy? For is this not the platform — if we will only examine it, study it, know it and stand on it together. This platform on which our two movements can stand together is made

up of certain planks, the most important of which are:

The idea of education for all, of educational opportunity according to ability to learn and according to our role in society.

The defense of human rights; the abolition of racial and religious discrimination.

Maintaining a high standard of necessary public services.

The inherent dignity of all forms of socially useful labour; recognition of the fact of social interdependence.

The need for a universal system of medical care, supplemented by community and consumer-owned health services.

The maintenance of a strong system of public broadcasting in Canada, independent of political pressures and subject only to parliamentary control.

(Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could learn to stand hand in hand on platforms like this?)

The great need for all forms of public and non-profit housing slum clearance and urban renewal without profiteering.

Protection of the consumer interest; recognition of the fact that the consumer must receive protection of public legislation, whether he or she is buying bread, credit, automobiles or thalidomide.

That no class will be permitted to use its professional status to exploit citizens in the use of public services.

The social and intellectual emancipation of women.

Recognition of the full implications of the age of plenty recognition of the fact that we

(Continued on Page 4)

GRADING STANDARDS AND YOUR HOGS

By Paul Babey

Why  
Should You  
Patronize  
C.C.I.L. ?

Because there is no other way  
to better machines  
at lower prices

C.C.I.L. does not ask your support just  
because it is a CO-OP . . .

IT ASKS YOUR SUPPORT  
ON ITS GREAT RECORD OF  
SERVICE TO WESTERN  
FARMERS IN PROVIDING  
THEM WITH THE BEST  
OF MACHINES AND  
THE BEST OF DIVIDENDS!

At a number of meetings I attended this last winter, farmers indicated they were dissatisfied with present hog grading methods. I discussed the matter quite extensively with the Federal Hog Grading Department people here in Edmonton. It appears to me that every effort is being made to insure that the hog producer is getting a fair grade. All inspectors arrive at their grading decisions on the basis of Canadian Hog Carcass Grades (see chart).

Hog gradings are a Canada Department of Agriculture responsibility, and are carried out by government trained personnel.

Graders are rotated throughout the packing plants every month, in an effort to have a uniform standard wherever grading is done! This is protection for both the producer and the processor, since no processor likes to be singled out as grading too tough, when he actually has nothing to do with the grades the farmer gets on his hogs.

A grade standard supervisor is constantly checking the grading inspectors at all plants to assure uniformity in the province. An administrator of grades from Ottawa makes at least three trips a year across Canada to see that grades are in accordance with the established standards, and that they are the same in all provinces.

Grading inspectors would be very pleased to have farm people observe the work of grading carcasses. This is possible, and could be a most convincing way for hog producers to see how their hog carcasses compare with those of other producers.

Our percentage of grade A's provincially is 35%. In other words, almost two-thirds of our hog production is B or C grade carcasses. Hog producers who are interested in getting better grades, and consequently better prices, should inquire at the local office of the District Agriculturist about hog quality improvement programs and Record of Production policy.

Quality is a most important factor, which will govern our pork sales in the future. If we expect the consumer to buy, then we must produce the type of pork the

CANADIAN HOG CARCASS GRADES

Grade	Wt. Range	Min Length	Max. Shld. Fat	Max. Loin Fat
A	135-150 lb. 151-170 lb.	29-29 ½” 29 ½-30”	1 ¾” 2”	1 ¼” 1 ½”
B	125-150 lb. 151-180 lb.	28-28 ¾” 29-30”	1 ¾-2 ¼” 2 ¼-2 ½”	1 ½-1 ¾” 1 ¾-2”
C	125-180 lb.	None	None None May be overfat, lacking in length, type and balance. Also young females with slight mammary development.	
D	All weights	None	Carcasses weighing less than 90 lbs.; thin, underfinished, dark fleshed, rough, soft, oily or having serious physical damage or injury.	
Light Heavies Extra Heavies	90-124 lb. 181-195 lb.  Over 195 lb.	Shall have reasonable finish and quality.		
Sows No. 1	All weights	Good finish and quality.		
Sows No. 2	All weights	Thin, overfat or very rough.		

CANADA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Production and Marketing Branch  
Livestock Division

TAXING CASH  
ADVANCES

According to informed sources, prior to the taxation year 1958, a taxpayer reporting his income on the cash basis was allowed to set up a reserve for monies received as an advance for stored grain.

For that year and for all taxation years following, Section

housewife wants. The trend is definitely towards the growing of hogs which produce leaner meat.

(6A) of the Act provided that no reserve of this nature could be allowed. From this, it would seem that cash advances on farm stored grain are taxable upon receipt. Section 85-F of the Taxation Act also covers this point.

According to this same source, farmers are not taxed twice on grain for which advances have been received. They are taxed on the amount of the advance, and then on the balance received when the grain is at last sold. There is no question about the total amount received by the farmer being taxed twice.

Nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium in one inch of top soil is worth \$420 per acre.



BANFF CONFERENCE:

A WORLD OUTLOOK FOR TODAY AND TOMORROW

By Mrs. R. Johnston, F.W.U.A. President

On March 23 - 26, more than fifty years after the founding of the University of Alberta, and Dr. Marshall Tory's dream to take the university to the people, thirty western farm leaders attended the sixth annual conference held in Banff School of Fine Arts. They represented the Western Farm Unions, Federations of Agriculture, the Co-operatives, Commodity groups, the grain trade, the Canadian Wheat Board, and Farm Women.

For this conference—a seminar on the social, economic and political position of Agriculture—nearly half of the staff were from the U. of A. and the Department of Agriculture, with the rest from other Canadian universities, the Agricultural Economics Research Council of Canada and the University of Nottingham, England. They were highly qualified specialists in the fields of agricultural economics, political economy and sociology.

The following is a brief summary of some of the important deliberations at the conference:

**Canadian Agricultural Development** first aimed to increase production. In the 1930's we became concerned with farm economics. In the 1950's we established the first significant marketing aids. Now legislators will consider agriculture for itself. Canadians are now ready to consider the general welfare of society, education, health services, aid to the unfortunate, maintenance of growth through deficit financing, and rehabilitation for under privileged groups.

**Canadian Government Policy** attempts to meet the above mentioned aims plus an international role in economic affairs. There must be future flexibility in structural adjustments and compromise between economic and social adjustments.

**Agriculture in the Political Arena**—There is an individual basis of truth and rights, and a group basis of truth and rights. Our view of life is a matter of class, of religion, of ethnic group, of region, and of urban or rural environment, etc. If truth is a group matter perhaps we should count groups when electing representatives. Urban groups have money, time, prestige, and energy to influence governments. For social equality it might be desirable to give political power to groups to counteract economic power. At present the people most down and out economically are the most down and out politically.

**The Agricultural Economics Research Council of Canada** has recently been established to do research which has policy implications co-ordinating the roles of Agricultural Economics and Sociology. Finance comes from a number of sources, permitting independent research on the part of the Council, which will be available to all groups.

**Agriculture in Britain**—British agricultural policy aims to make

best use of available resources to produce sufficient good quality food, keeping farm income on a par with other sectors. It aims to keep down public cost but still keep agriculture healthy to produce in time of need. Starving people in the world makes restricted production questionable. However, since Britain is not basically an exporting nation their deficiency payment system works. The farm population of 4% makes adjustments easier than say for Italy where 30% are farming. There is sympathy and respect for farmers and consumers don't think food is expensive.

**European Production & Marketing**—In Geneva a U.N. agency E.C.E. (Economic Commission for Europe) having a joint secretariat with F.A.O. established the Geneva Standards as trade grades which are now accepted by the E.C.M. (European Common Market).

**In Brussels E.E.C.** (European Economic Community) that is the Common Market Countries aims eventually at political unity.

**E.F.T.A.** (European Free Trade Association) stands outside the E.E.C. mainly because they could not see their way clear to include agriculture in any free-trade system.

**In all European Countries** production seems to be greater than demand. All countries in Europe and in I.F.A.P. believe in the FAMILY FARM but there is no definition of a family farm. (I.F.A.P. is the International Federation of Agricultural Producers, of which the C.F.A., Canadian Federation of Agriculture is a member.)

**Changing Patterns in World Trade**—F.A.O. projections for the world's supply and demand of food for 1970 show the low income countries with an increased income and food supply increase. by 2.9% a year. High income countries food demands will go up about 2% a year. We must face

the question of, "Who is my neighbor?" F.A.O. is sponsoring surplus food to help the underdeveloped countries. Governments must come to the bar of public opinion. They consult other countries affected before undertaking aid programs above the normal trade. It does not seem that the world will ever resort to free trade. Instead of bi-lateral trade there will be more multi-lateral trade.

**Prospects for Canadian Agricultural Trade**—Great changes in World Trade occur over a short period—Western Europe used to be Canada's wheat market, now Russia and China are. Quantities for export are relatively small, in cereals 10%, in livestock 5 or 6%. Human consumption of grains tends to fall and livestock production and importing of feed grains to rise. Production per acre is rising in many countries. It is estimated that a substantial market will remain in China. It would seem that as more people recognize world conditions, the more contributing nations will provide for programs to aid developing nations.

**Rural Sociology**—Viewing the changing farm picture—Canada in 1871 was 80% rural; in 1961—30% rural with only 10.5% actually on farms. In considering the value systems underlying rural Canadian life, religion is the most important force. The protestant ethic includes the following—democracy, status of women in the home, father and son relationship, separation of political and religious life in terms of control—work is good and idleness is evil—criteria of efficiency measured in terms of profit. When farmers learn to compete collectively there is hope for survival. The tenth at the top must learn to think of the lower 9/10. The lower people are on the income scale, the less likely they actually are to recognize the problem. How do you reach them?

**Sociological Guide Posts to Agricultural Planning**

1. **Planning**—For all people of the world. The western world has recognized the basic principle of the Welfare State. The responsibility for those outside our borders is even more revolutionary. We must accept that responsibility!
2. **Obtain the opinion of the people** and work from that basis through organizations.
3. **Government Programs** geared to protect the family farm unit.
4. **A.R.D.A.** is intended to help the low income group under \$2,500.00 annual income. There should be local planning and co-operation with governments, to

meet the basic human problem. This is a challenge to farm organizations. We must be aware of the needs of farm people, do the necessary planning to meet those needs and bring all farm people with us in an effort to arrive at a solution to farm problems.

I wish to thank the Alberta Federation of Agriculture for sending me to the Western Farm Leaders Conference. It was a privilege to hear the views of the authorities who addressed the conference, and to assess and take part in the discussions which followed the lectures. I obtained a

better understanding of the position of Canadian Agriculture in the Canadian and world economy, and the sociological aspects of the rapidly changing rural community.

Farm Organization must make a careful study of the "Sociological Guide Posts to Agricultural Planning" as outlined above. We must consider the needs of the people on the farms, the people of Canada, and the people of the world. We must use our influence in an effort to meet their needs. I am firmly convinced that it is the people who are important.

Nothing worth while ever comes cheap! Money is needed by your Hog Committee to pay expenses, and costs of reaching 30,000 or more hog producers in Alberta, with the marketing board message. The Hog Committee's message is simple:

*"A hog marketing board is the best alternative to the present marketing situation, and it can keep the market place open to those who want to produce hogs in the future."*

GIVE

A HOG

FOR

FREEDOM

IF YOU AGREE with the marketing board principle, make a donation to the

Hog Marketing Board Fund,  
c/o Farmers' Union of Alberta  
9934 - 106 Street, Edmonton

If you can, give the proceeds from a hog to preserve your freedom to market your produce.

THIS IS "CONSTRUCTIVE" CRITICISM?

Marketing Board Lament

Here lies the farmer, stiff and cold,  
Beside the pig he used to hold.  
Not to this we point with pride.  
It was a case of suicide.

He built his barn. He ground the grain.  
He nursed the pigs through snow and rain,  
They paid his taxes, and what is more  
They kept the wolf from his front door.

Then came the "Board" with rule and stick.  
It took away his profit quick.  
They told him when, and why, and how  
To sell his pig; not yet his cow.

He trucked them back, they trucked them forth.  
One pig went south, the other north.  
Before the board took all its levies  
He found his grade A's were "heavies."

The price of bacon, it did soar.  
The farmer's price dropped to the floor.  
The corner grocer and his mates  
Got all their bacon from the "States."

The farmer and his faithful brother?  
They drowned the one and shot the other.  
Now it's done, We'll all admit it  
Because the Farmers Union did it.

From "The Calgary Albertan" of March 13, 1964

ENTRY FORM

Junior Farm Leader of the Year

Deadline for returning applications to Central Office June 10, 1964

Name (Mr., Mrs., or Miss)\_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_Local No.\_\_\_\_\_Age\_\_\_\_\_

Marital status\_\_\_\_\_Years lived on farm\_\_\_\_\_

Member of the F.U.A. since\_\_\_\_\_Father's name\_\_\_\_\_

Community activities\_\_\_\_\_

Sports you participate in\_\_\_\_\_

Letter of recommendation from minister or teacher must accompany this entry.

Secretary of sponsoring local\_\_\_\_\_Address\_\_\_\_\_



F.U.A. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

# A TIME FOR SOWING

By Paul Babey

Spring is here and the busy season lies ahead. It is very difficult to sit behind a desk, when the countryside is in the process of shedding its winter coat and donning its new spring wardrobe. I am beginning to see what city people mean when they say that farm people are very fortunate in that they live in the country — a sea of natural beauty; breathing the country's finest, freshest air; observing the transition of plants from winter's hibernation to a spring living green; listening to the caressing overtures of the birds — nature's largest orchestra, playing wake-up music to an enormous audience waiting for a new life.

Under these conditions farmers gaze optimistically at the coming season, plant their seed hoping that they too may help beautify the countryside, provide themselves with a living, and most important — produce food for Canada and a part of our undernourished world.

Moisture conditions in the province generally are not good. Lack of snow has resulted in very little or no runoff. Moisture reserves from last year are practically non-existent. Periodic rainfall will be required if we are to come through with an average crop.

Marketing board meetings have dominated FUA activity at the provincial level. The meetings with directors from the Ontario Hog Marketing Board drew large crowds. Questions covered a wide range of topics, and illustrated genuine interest. The two meetings in Westlock and St. Paul are worth mentioning. Well over 150 farm people attended each meeting.

## What About TV

Provincially we have covered most areas with meetings. Large turnouts have indicated our farmers are interested in the marketing question. However, there are still large numbers of hog producers that have not attended any meetings. Because of our provincial voting regulations it is essential that these people vote in the plebiscite otherwise the plan can be defeated, not because people are opposed, but because they may not take the trouble to cast a ballot.

Regardless of the outcome, we hope that farm people will realize the value of the public market, and direct more of their livestock shipments to the A.L.C. who have done a tremendous job for the livestock producer.

We are interested in having an expression of opinion from all the hog producers, so that they may make the decision. Some method of reaching the "I can't be bothered" hog producer, must be found. Suggestions have been raised to prepare one or two TV programs of factual information on Marketing Boards. This would help to reach many hog producers at the same time, and could be a worthwhile venture. Television is fairly costly, so the question of finance is important. So far we have been able to keep our

expenses down to a minimum. Contributions to this point will almost cover the expenditure.

Many farmers have contributed a hog for freedom and for a board. Have you contributed yours? The future of the hog industry is at stake. Is it worth a contribution of one hog or not?

Numerous locals have also sent financial contributions. We salute the Smoky Lake FWUA local for the largest contribution to the fund to date. The ladies in that local donated 3 hogs — a sum of \$100.00. Congratulations. We are pleased to accept any donation, large or small, so that we can carry on and complete the educational program. Our job will only be completed when all of the hog producers are acquainted with all of the facts so that they may vote intelligently.

## Post Men

A suggestion made at many meetings concerned the possibility of voting by mail. Many members felt that at the time of the plebiscite every local should appoint at least 4 or 5 "post men" who would circulate the area and mail the ballots for the hog producers. This would be a concentrated effort to insure the return of the ballots. Has your local made any plans?

Saskatchewan hog producers will be voting on May 9. Roy Atkinson, President of Saskatchewan Farmers Union, stated that he was confident the necessary 2/3 majority would be obtained and that Saskatchewan Farmers will be giving strong leadership to re-organization of a future hog marketing structure on the prairies.

The Western Farm Leaders Conference kicked off to a fine start in Banff on March 23-26. The seminar was arranged by the University Extension Department to look into the social, economic and political position of agriculture. A group of very qualified economists presented papers on the various topics, followed by a

group discussion after every session. Conferences of this type are very valuable since they provide an opportunity to discuss with the experts the implications of various policies of importance to agriculture. It appeared to me that too much emphasis was placed on efficiency, the end result of which has meant fewer and fewer farmers. There are many other areas which affected agriculture, such as production costs, trade and marketing.

## District Conventions

Districts 13 and 14 conventions were held in Medicine Hat and Lethbridge. Both meetings were impressive. There was a genuine desire to get to work and do the job. Official reports were exceptionally good. Congratulations to all the elected and re-elected officials. Resolutions discussed insurance, farm machinery act, irrigation and others. Attendance was up over last year.

We are optimistic about the attendance in the remaining District Conventions this year. Certainly with all the activity during the past winter we should take it upon ourselves to attend, voice our opinions and give guidance to the organization. Every year district conventions act as a clearing house for ideas and resolutions. I urge all of the locals to forward resolutions without delay to your district secretary.

There are a number of points upon which your members should present resolutions for discussion: 1. Farm Organization — Is it possible and desirable to have one united voice for agriculture in Alberta? Could the recommendations of the Committee studying farm organization be implemented? Are we prepared to move in this direction?

2. Canada Pension Plan — You should present resolutions expressing your opinion on this program

## SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES . . .

(Continued from Page 2)

are faced with the reality of abundance and that we have to create a system of distribution and money so that abundance can be used.

The sharing of knowledge, our productive capacity and our financial resources with underdeveloped

— telling us whether you feel coverage is sufficient, whether the plan should be voluntary or compulsory, rates of contribution, etc.

3. Marketing Boards — Are all of the hog producers prepared to vote intelligently on the plebiscite? Should locals make a final request to their MLA's and to the Minister of Agriculture, insisting upon a change in voting regulations? Suggestions from many areas are to have at least four people appointed to act as postmen to pick up the ballots and mail them to the Returning Officer.

4. Crop Insurance — In the areas where crop insurance is desirable, municipal or county councils should be approached with a view to setting up test areas in an effort to determine rates, etc. Should your County or Municipal District be a test area?

There are other fields which will be discussed at the annual district conventions. It is through the district that communications from the local level to the central part of your organization flow. Farm people should make every effort to attend. I will be looking forward to meeting many of you there.

Life memberships in the organization has exceeded the 50 mark. An additional 48 would fill our Life Membership Scroll. Consider the advantages, and the savings — Subscribe Now — Pay Later!

## P. S.

The most recent definition of a farm is as follows — "An area of land surrounded by problems."

Good luck in your seeding operations.

oped people everywhere, both at home and abroad.

Full realization of economic maladjustment at home, right here in Canada; that we are no better off as far as the distribution of wealth is concerned than we were fifty years ago; that the top 20 per cent of the population get about half the wealth of Canada, while the lowest 20 per cent get less than 5 per cent of the available wealth.

## Conclusion

Are these not the things on which we should be working together? This is the program in which, if we could once join hands to create a really inspiring popular movement in Canada, we would find a great deal of our differences dissolving — just as the religions that formerly tried to exterminate each other are now learning as never before how they can work together for good. This, gentlemen is what I believe, and what I think you believe too. This is the faith that we share, but it is the faith that may be lost unless the progressives close ranks, become united, and learn to advance a cause together. We are often strangers to each other, because we are far apart on other but less important issues.

Together labour and co-operatives, along with other progressive forces, must build the kind of popular movement in Canada which this nation sorely lacks. We know our differences and we tend to become angry about them, but we know not our similarities and we have not worked together. Let us here begin with the rules of the dialogue and in these we find the way to a new relationship between the two movements represented around the table today. And out of this relationship will come new inspiration and courage that will mean much to both labour and co-operatives, and so to the nation at large.

Women today: receive 80 per cent of all life insurance benefits; hold 52 per cent of all corporation shares; own well over 50 per cent of the nation's wealth; spend about 80 per cent of every dollar; hold over 50 per cent of all savings deposits.

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